



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2025-2026



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www.cis.ky



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CAYMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
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School Description

History and Governance

Cayman International School began as Faulkner Academy with high ideals in October of 1994. The school was purchased by ISS (Cayman), Ltd., on December 12, 2002, with the name of the school changed to Cayman International School (CIS) in 2003. The Board of Directors hires a Director to oversee the day-to-day running of the school, create, approve and maintain policy, and to see that the school carries out its stated mission and objectives. CIS is a private, college preparatory, non-sectarian, co-educational school for students from two years old through Grade 12. It was established to provide an American/International educational program for the dependents of the multi-national professionals living in Cayman.

Accreditation

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA), an American accrediting agency, accredits CIS through Grade 12. As an IB World School, CIS is authorized to present the Diploma Programme of the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). CIS is registered with the Cayman Islands Ministry of Education, who approves the licenses for schools on the island. CIS works with the Cayman Islands Education Standards and Assessment Unit (ESAU), the Cayman Islands Early Childhood Unit, MSA and the IBO to maintain high quality, challenging programs for its students. CIS is a Distinguished Member School of the American International Schools in the Americas (AMISA).

Elementary Overview

The Elementary School at CIS encompasses Kindergarten through Grade 5. The students in these grades are grouped together for academic and social purposes. The goal of the CIS elementary program is to provide students with a sound foundation for future learning. The program focuses on the child as an active learner, with the curriculum designed to promote the development of competencies, conceptual understanding and character. The ultimate goal of the program is to prepare students to be responsible, productive citizens in a rapidly changing world.

Elementary teachers employ the partnership principle to provide strong social emotional support and rich contexts for learning for students. In upper elementary grades, class partners work together with two groups of students, or cohorts. One teacher designs and delivers the English Language Arts and Social Studies program and the other Math and Science. Grade level and subject partners at each grade level collaborate together to plan and design instruction and assessment for one of the particular subject groups, ELA/Social Studies or Math/Science. Time allotments for each subject group is dictated by a combination of Cayman Islands Government recommendations, and the Common Core Curriculum resource requirements. Additional time is allotted for homeroom where Class Partners are assigned to a specific homeroom group to provide important social emotional learning and daily routines like Positive Discipline and morning meetings.. This homeroom teacher is the key contact for parents and provides the primary means of communication between the home and the school.

General Information

School Office Hours

The CIS Office is open from 7:30am through 4:30 PM daily, Monday through Friday, during the regular school year. Student start times and end times are noted below.

School Address, Phone, Fax, Email, And Website

Director: Jim Urquhart
Elementary School Principal: Angela Hernandez
KG - Gr2 Assistant Principal: Andrea Nixon
Gr3 - Gr5 Assistant Principal: Darren Azeez

Address: 95 Minerva Drive, PO Box 31364, Grand Cayman,
Cayman Islands KY1-1206
Phone: 345-945-4664
Fax: 345-945-4650
E-mail: cis@cis.ky
Website: www.caymaninternationalschool.org

Student Start Times and End Times

Grade Levels	Drop Off	Start Time	End Time	After School Activities	After School Care
Elementary (KG - Gr5)	7:45-7:55 AM	8:00 AM	3:00 PM	3:00 - 4:00	3:00 - 5:30

Guidance and Counseling

The goal of our Elementary Guidance curriculum is to support and enhance the overall elementary program, as well as help to develop ethical students who can function with confidence, grace, and dignity. The Elementary Guidance program uses the [CASEL SEL Framework](#) and the [ISCA Standards](#) to guide the curriculum and specifically help students develop communication and interpersonal skills that foster stronger self-concepts. The guidance lessons provide contact between the counselor and each student in a classroom setting. The counselor is then able to develop a relationship with each child individually and provide additional support emotionally, academically, and socially. The counselor meets with each class on a regular schedule for guidance in conjunction with small group and individual student settings.

The CIS counselors collaborate with classroom teachers in their work as mentors to students. The counselors provide individual, small group and class counseling sessions for students during the school year. The guidance program in Elementary is also designed to increase awareness and intentionally develop CIS Community Principles and the [High 5 Character Traits](#) along with other tools and strategies important for our students social-emotional well-being.

Parent Involvement

Our parent community enhances the learning experience of our students. Without this support, CIS would not be the school that it is today. The parent community is run by a team of parents who volunteer with a mission to build a well-informed school community where all parents are welcome, all parents are encouraged to participate, and all nationalities are celebrated. As a parent, there are three ways that you can become regularly involved and support CIS students.

1. **Room Parent** - Room parents are responsible for organizing classroom parties and gifts and communicating with other parents in their child's classroom.
2. **Parent Volunteers** - Parent volunteers have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities during the school day that will support the work educators do at school. These experiences also allow parents to increase their knowledge and skills about their child's schooling to perceivably better support their own child at home.
3. **Special Events Volunteer** - If you are not able to commit to a regular schedule but would like to help out around the school at times when help and support is most needed, we are happy to reach out on an individual event by event basis.

Process for addressing questions or concerns

During the course of the school year, questions or concerns may arise. The recommended procedure for answering these questions or responding to concerns is to contact the school directly.

Questions or concerns about a classroom activity or individual educational matters should first be discussed between the parents and the teacher involved. If this first step does not resolve the matter sufficiently, it should be brought to the attention of the Principal or Assistant Principals.

Questions or concerns about the facility, policies, and operation should be addressed to the school administration, including Principal, Assistant Principals or Director.

It is only after all other avenues of resolution have been exhausted that the Board of Directors would be presented with the question/concern through the Director. The Board of Directors will not deal with any concerns that are not submitted formally with a report from the Director.

CIS Mission, Beliefs, Outcomes, Parameters

CIS Learning Principles

The CIS Learning Principles articulate the foundational concepts of our Definition of Learning. In alignment with our CIS Learning Principles our Elementary School is committed to helping children learn by actively engaging in activities that put their developing understanding and competencies to complex use. Our key pedagogical frameworks include inquiry-based learning, integrated approach to literacy, Everyday Mathematics, and Project-Based Learning. These frameworks are designed to build students' academic skills while also encouraging them to create, communicate, collaborate and think critically about the world around them. We work hard to help children understand that they have agency in the world, and that they can play a positive role in their local and global communities.

At CIS we share foundational conceptual understandings about learning:

Language of Learning

We understand that to make learning happen effectively and collectively, we need a shared language that describes what learning is and how we do it.

Ownership of Learning

We understand that we are all able to learn and ultimately responsible for our own learning.

Nature of Learning

We understand that learning is emotional as well as cognitive, and is both an individual and social experience.

Contexts of Learning

We understand that learning transfer happens best in rich, relevant contexts.

CIS Community Principles

At CIS our teachers and parents are united in an effort to build upon the empathy and independence children learn in their early years at school. Together we strive to help students put our community principles of kindness, partnership, sustainability and good intent into practice. CIS Community Principles were developed with input from various stakeholders and designed to help students understand how to put our community principles into practice. It identifies individual and actionable character traits that encourage rich dialogue around our Community Principles and allow students, teachers and parents to “notice, name and nurture” behavior and choices that align with our community values and wider social norms. Our hope is that students benefit from developing lifelong positive values and character and that this learning promotes a classroom environment in which every student can thrive.

The Kindness Principle

We value kindness. Our kindness is illustrated in all of our interactions. How we communicate with each other is emblematic of our collective kind and caring spirit. When we have disagreements, we talk with people, not about people.

The Partnership Principle

We are strongest when we work together, when we share ideas and resources, and when we partner with the greater Cayman community. A spirit of collaboration not only makes our community stronger, but it also makes students' learning richer by connecting stakeholders in exciting and innovative ways.

The Sustainability Principle

We take into consideration long-term impacts when making decisions. This applies to decisions about programming as well as to our personal and collective behavior. We live on an island with limited resources and our environmental stewardship is essential in keeping it viable and healthy for generations to come.

The Good Intent Principle

We assume good intent. We trust that members of our community have what is best for one another at heart. We engage diverse perspectives with empathy and open-mindedness. We aim to be our best selves in all that we do.

CIS Parameters

- CIS shall always meet the requirements for private schools under the Cayman Ministry of Education
- We will only allow policies, procedures, or behaviors that promote the growth and achievement of students
- All energies will be focused on instructional and extra-curricular programs
- CIS shall always remain accredited by a U.S. regional agency and other recognized international agencies
- We will not tolerate behavior that diminishes the dignity, self-worth or safety of any individual
- All programs and services must be consistent with the strategic plan
- CIS will only accept and retain those students for whom there is an existing appropriate educational program
- All decisions will be made based on assuring the school remains fiscally responsible and operates within its own resources
- As a proprietary school, CIS may differ from non-profit institutions in its decision-making processes and its policy-making

Links to Widely Used Policies

Elementary School

- [ES Behavior Procedures](#)
- [ES Homework Policy](#)
- [ES Sweets Policy](#)
- [ES Communicating Learning](#)

School Wide

- [CIS Anti-Bullying Policy](#)
- [CIS Attendance Policy and Procedures](#)
- [CIS Child Protection Policy](#)
- [CIS Class Placement Process and Details](#)
- [CIS Tutoring Program](#)
- [CIS Uniform Policy and Information](#)

Elementary School Policies and Procedures

After School Activities (ASAs)

CIS offers a comprehensive and balanced co-curricular after school program. Children are invited to choose from a range of activities facilitated by teachers or external providers on our CIS campus. Activities provided by teachers are free of charge; those offered by external providers require an additional fee.

Three activity sessions are offered during the school year, and registration occurs just before each new session via our online platform. Session descriptions and schedules are sent to each family prior to the opening of the online registration.

Early Childhood and Elementary students who are registered in school-sponsored ASAs immediately after school will be delivered to that activity by the homeroom teacher at the end of the school day. The parent/guardian is responsible for pick-up of their child after the After School Activity from the location of the activity. For example, tennis club pick up at the tennis courts or cooking club at the indicated classroom.

[See ASA Website for more details](#)

Children participating in a non-CIS After School activity

Parents are responsible for the transition of their Early Childhood or Elementary School child registered in non school sponsored activities on campus, such as Camana Bay Aquatics Club (CBAC) or ASAs that start later, such as 3:30 or 4pm,

Additionally, students can not go to Pack up and Play (PUP) in the transition between end of school and late starting ASAs, unless parents come and get their child from PUP and transition them. Pack up and Play teachers are not able to take students to late starting ASAs or non school sponsored activities on campus like CBAC, as they have other students in their care at that time.

After School Care (Pack-Up-and-Play)

In addition to the regular school day, CIS offers after school care. Students who remain in [After School Care](#) will be transitioned to that classroom or activity by a CIS teacher or assistant teacher. This service is offered for an additional fee. Sign-up and costs are available on the CIS website. After school care is exclusively for CIS students. Timings from Monday through Friday, following the school academic calendar are:

- Early Childhood between 2:45 and 5:30
- Kindergarten to Grade 5 between 3:00 and 5:30

Allergies

Cayman International School is committed to providing a safe school environment for its students. The school recognizes that food allergies, in some instances, may be severe and even occasionally life threatening. CIS is not an allergen-free campus. The school's aim is to reduce the likelihood of severe allergic reactions of students with known food allergies while at school, and to increase the likelihood that appropriate medical treatment is available in the case of an allergic reaction.

If your child has a severe or potentially dangerous/life threatening allergy, the school therefore requests that you provide an allergy treatment action plan signed by your child's doctor, as well as any necessary medications, to the school office. An example of an allergy treatment action plan can be found in Appendix B of this handbook.

Animals/Family Pets

No animals or family pets are allowed on campus without prior approval by administration. Please leave pets at home when dropping off or collecting your children from school.

Anti-bullying Policy

Cayman International School is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for everyone in our school community, one which is conducive to effective teaching and learning, free from intimidation, fear and any form of harassment. For more details, please refer to the [CIS Anti-Bullying Policy](#).

Arrival and Dismissal

Morning supervision is provided on the playground beginning at 7:45am. Parents or guardians should walk their students to the playground and must remain with them until the supervising teachers arrive. Playground supervision is not provided after the end of the regular school day. Children may enroll in extended day care (Pack Up and Play) if parents or guardians are unable to collect them at the regular dismissal time. Children may not remain on campus, or leave the grounds unattended.

Drop-off

- Elementary Drop off is from 7:45-7:55 AM at the Soccer Field or Elementary playground.
- Supervision is available only after 7:45 AM in these designated areas, please do not leave your elementary child alone on campus before that time.
 - Kindergarten to Grade 2 students can hang their bags but should be brought to the playground or field
 - Grade 3 to 5 students and parents should not go upstairs before 7:55 AM. They must leave their bag at the end of the stairs and stay on the field.
- For late arrivals:
 - From 7:55-8:15 AM - Students should go directly to the classroom.
 - After 8:15 AM - Please sign your child in at the office before accompanying them to their class.

Pick-up

- Pick-up is at 3:00pm for Kindergarten to Grade 5
 - KG-Gr2 from classrooms
 - Gr3-5 from the fire lane.
- At 3:10 students who have not been picked up will be brought to PUP (Pack Up and Play).
- After school activities (ASA): Teachers will transition students at 3:15 to their ASAs.
- After pick-up, parents/guardians are responsible for the supervision of their child on school grounds.
- We encourage parents and caregivers to actively supervise children while on campus.

It is our standard practice for teachers, Pack Up and Play staff, and After School Activities providers to ensure that students are handed over only to authorized adults during dismissal. To ensure this procedure is effective, parents are expected to notify teachers in writing if their child will be picked up by an adult that does not regularly have permission to pick up the child. In the absence of this permission, at dismissal teachers are instructed to not dismiss the child to an unauthorized adult until properly advised by phone, Seesaw, or email.

This protocol, known as "Hand to Hand Dismissal," holds significant importance, especially given our open campus environment for Kindergarten to Grade 5. This approach not only enhances the safety of our children but also facilitates the smooth transition of supervision from our staff to the designated adults. Given that many families don't immediately leave after school due to various reasons, this process proves to be particularly beneficial.

Assemblies and Celebrations of Learning

As a community of learners, we generally gather for K-5 assemblies a few times a year for specific purposes such as celebrating the start and end of the year, Community Principles assemblies, talent shows, etc. In addition to formal assemblies our community prioritizes Celebrations of Learning where grade level teams organize opportunities for students to share the outcomes of learning outcomes in a variety of subjects and projects with parents, family, caregivers and other students/classes. The school

will always do its best to communicate these opportunities with families at least 2-weeks in advance, unless otherwise not possible. Changes due to weather or other unexpected circumstances may be necessary and we thank families for their flexibility and understanding.

Attendance - Absences, Late Arrivals, Early Departure

Cayman International School is a successful school and both parents and students play an important part in making it so. In *Successful Schools and Achieving Students* (2018), the Government of the Cayman Islands denotes that “positive behavior for good learning” (p.29) includes students’ attendance and punctuality. For this reason, the Government of the Cayman Islands mandates that parents ensure their children attend school regularly and arrive on time.

Cayman International School strongly encourages parents to avoid absences due to convenience and extended absences, for travel, for vacations during regularly scheduled school days, or on days adjacent to weekends and school holidays. When a student is absent for avoidable reasons, teachers can not recreate the rich learning experiences that a child missed and should not be asked to provide makeup work.

For more detailed information refer to the [CIS Attendance Policy and Procedures Document](#).

Absences

If it is necessary for a student to miss school for any reason parents are required to email attendance@cis.ky. Additionally, Early Childhood and Elementary parents please communicate the absence by email with your child’s teacher.

Late Arrivals

Students are expected to arrive at school on time. Late-arriving students may be disruptive to his/her learning in addition to the learning of other students in the class.

Early Departure

During the school day a student may leave the school campus only by parent request which must be approved by the administration or designee. A student who leaves campus during the school day must be signed out in the office by the parent. When he or she returns to school during the day, a stop in the office to sign back in is necessary.

Extended Absences

Extended absences must be communicated to and approved by the Elementary Principal and Homeroom teacher.

Bikes, scooters, skateboards, roller blades or shoes with wheels

A student who rides a bicycle or scooter to and from school should check with teachers, the office or administration about the appropriate place to park it during the school day. Scooters, skateboards, bikes, and inline skates or shoes with wheels are **not allowed** to be used on campus before, during, or after school hours due to safety reasons. All property must be left properly secured while unattended. The school is not responsible for these items if they are lost or stolen.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a special time and we will recognize the date in school. Parents are expected to let their child's teacher know ahead of time if they would like to bring in a simple treat for the class to celebrate your child's birthday. Checking with the teacher several days in advance allows the teacher to advise the parent about any special dietary concerns and find an appropriate time for the birthday treat so there is minimal loss of instructional time. Treats are usually distributed at the end of the school day prior to dismissal or prior to a recess.

Parents are not permitted to send gift bags, balloons or gifts for the children in the class. The school permits a light snack, but candles, matches, gift bags, and party celebrations should not be a focus in the school setting. Invitations for outside parties will not be distributed in school unless there is one invitation for each member of the class. Thank you for your support and sensitivity to these issues.

Cell Phones/Smart Watches/Electronic Devices

Cell phones and smart watches may not be used by Elementary students on the campus during the instructional day as they interfere with learning and cause unnecessary distraction.

If there is a need to contact a parent during school hours, the student should request permission from the teacher to come to the office to place a phone call. A parent/guardian should contact the office if communication with the child is necessary. We ask that parents assist us in reducing the need for calls with students by ensuring their child is fully prepared for school with everything needed for the day. The student and parents/guardians assume responsibility for all electronic items brought to school.

Civvies Days (or other alternate dress days)

"Civvies Days" are held on the last Friday of every month. On Civvies Days, students can wear regular non-uniform clothes in exchange for a \$2 CI donation. All money raised on Civvies Days goes to on-island charities.

Student clothing on Civvies Days must conform to the guidelines below:

- Proper footwear is required. No sandals or Crocs.
- Denim jeans must be clean and in good condition (not frayed and without holes).
- Clothing which depicts drugs, alcohol, profanity, or sexual innuendo is not allowed.
- Spaghetti straps, strapless, halter tops or midriff tops are not allowed.
- Shorts and bottoms must fit appropriately with no skin showing below the waist or torso. Shorts, dresses, and skirts should be no shorter than mid-thigh length.

Class Placement

Each Spring, classroom teachers, counselors and administrators work collaboratively to develop class lists for the upcoming academic year. Classes are designed to be balanced across each grade level using several data points including social emotional and academic learning needs, balancing gender, teacher observation and assessments. When creating groupings, a primary focus is to create a positive learning community taking into consideration all children in the class; for this reason parent requests often cannot be honored. For more information read: [Class Placement Process and Details](#)

Classroom Parties

The children will have an opportunity to celebrate specific holidays during the year. Class parties are held at school and are planned and organized by the room parents. Parents volunteer to help with activities or to donate food or crafts. In Elementary, generally this includes a Halloween, winter holiday and an end-of-year party. Other celebrations may be integrated with units of study during the year. All classroom parties must adhere to the [Elementary School Sweets Policy](#).

Communications

- *The CIS Weekly Current:* A link to the school newsletter is sent electronically from the office each week to parents. It is also posted on the website. The Current provides an overview of what is happening on campus as well as important upcoming dates and events.
- *Seesaw:* Grade-level teachers will use Seesaw, our student portfolio platform, to involve parents in their child's schooling via day to day communication, posting key evidence of student learning and providing timely notices with families about events taking place at school.
- *CIS Website:* The CIS website (www.caymaninternationalschool.org) should be accessed regularly for newsletters and other information about the school and programs.
- *E-mail:* The faculty and staff, time permitting, check email before and after school. All email communications must follow CIS Community Principles of Kindness, Partnership, Sustainability and Good Intent. For emergencies and other timely communications, please contact the reception desk at (345) 945-4664.

Field Trips

Educational day trips are an important part of the school's written curriculum. They support the instructional program and provide valuable curriculum related learning experiences for students. Day trips are directly related to key learning; therefore, they are generally scheduled to coincide with the unit or topic they are intended to complement. On occasion, day trips may also be arranged to enrich the broader academic, cultural, or social development of students; to build group cohesion; or to deepen engagement with the local community.

Important notes:

- Parent permission to participate in non-aquatic field trips is collected during the annual re-enrolment process.
- Parents are asked to ensure that their contact information is accurate in the [Parent Portal](#) prior to the field trip.
- The cost of Elementary field trips has been included in the annual tuition amount.
- Information about day trips, including transportation arrangements, dates, times, and relevant links to learning, will be sent home prior to each event by the homeroom teacher via Seesaw or email.
- An authorization form will be sent out to parents for aquatic field trips via Google Forms. Parents must complete the digital authorization for their child to participate in aquatic field trips.

CIS Supervision Ratios: For field trips, there should be at least one adult for 10 students in Grades 6-12. The Early Childhood ratio is 1 adult for 6 children; the Elementary School is 1 adult for 8 children. These ratios may be altered by administrative discretion.

Food, drinks, sweets and gum at school

Food should not be eaten in the classrooms without prior teacher approval. Students should bring their own refillable water bottles daily. In order to keep our facilities and rooms clean and hygienic, gum is not permitted on campus. The [Elementary School Sweets Policy](#) summarizes the guidelines for sweets and food. This policy was created in collaboration with parents, students and teachers and aims to ensure a consistent experience for students across grade levels, respect a diversity of beliefs, encourage healthy food choices and promote sustainable practices. Teachers and parents must follow the guidelines in the [Elementary School Sweets Policy](#) whenever food or drinks are offered at school.

Form Requests And Confidential References

Parents who wish to have a teacher fill in confidential forms must do so through the school registrar registrar@cis.ky. The registrar will process these forms with your child's teacher, administrator and admissions department. Teachers are not able to accept forms directly from a parent.

Gifts and Donations

At the beginning of the school year a parent from each classroom is recruited to the role of Room Parent. The room Room Parent collects money from parents in the class wishing to contribute to the class parties and teacher appreciation fund. Outside of this contribution, it is not required to provide faculty, staff, admin or the Board of Directors and gifts or donations.

Additionally, no employee of Cayman International School or member of the Board of Directors will accept any gift or benefit (including gifts "in-kind" or discounts) from any student, parent or vendor unless such gift has a fair market value less than CI \$200. Whenever any employee or Board member receives or is offered a gift valued in excess of CI \$200 from or on behalf of any students, parent or any person or organization doing or seeking to do business with the school, he/she shall report the incident promptly to the Director. The Director shall consult with the employee and shall consider the appropriateness of the gift or offer and determine what action is appropriate in the best interests of the school, including whether the gift should be returned or the offer declined, and what communication to the donor or offer is appropriate. This policy is not intended (a) to require teachers or administrators to report receipt of token gifts from students unless the cumulative value of such gifts from any individual student, or family or vendor over a one year period exceeds CI \$300, or (b) to prevent mutual gift exchanges between parents or faculty in the context of social relationships.

If an organization or outside group offers to pay travel or support expenses to an employee for purposes of benefit to the school, the employee shall report the offer to the Director, who will review the circumstances and determine, whether such offer may be accepted. Unless the Director determines that acceptance of the offer of travel or other financial support is in the best interests of the school and will not compromise the position of the employee or the school in further dealing or decisions, he/she shall not approve acceptance of the offer and the employee shall decline the offer.

Guardians During Parent Absences

If it is necessary for parents to travel and to leave the student in Grand Cayman, the school office should be informed in writing in advance. The following information should be given:

1. Dates the parents will be gone.
2. Name and phone number of an English-speaking adult who is responsible for the student's welfare in the absence of both parents.

3. Name and phone number of a second contact in case of emergency or illness at school.

Homework

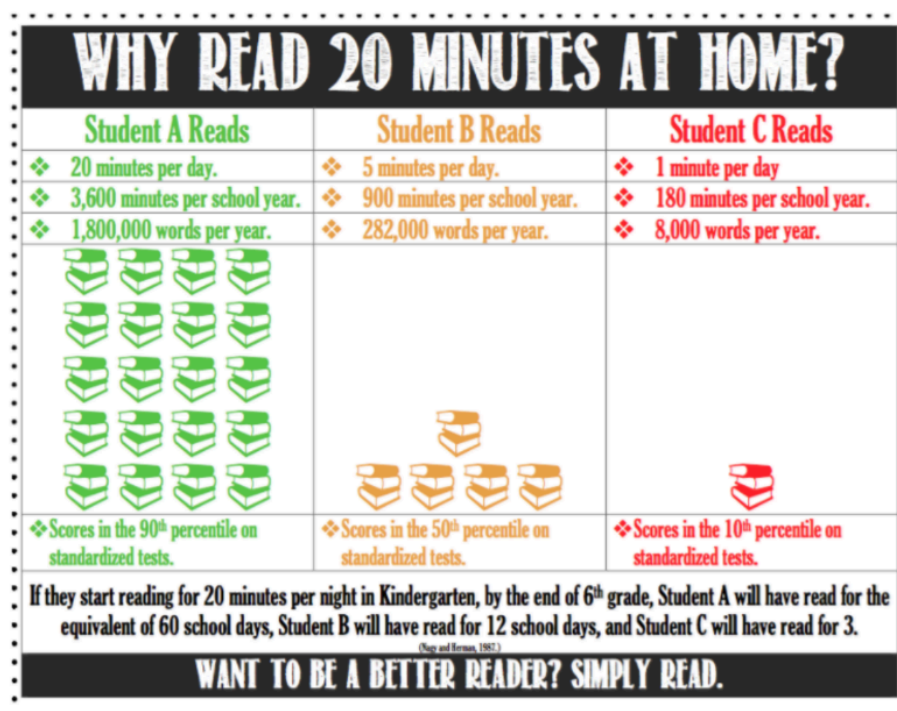
Our Elementary program does not depend on a lot of additional work at home. Homework may be assigned from K-5 so that students can expand on the skills and concepts taught in class and gain a more thorough understanding from additional independent study. At CIS, our primary aim is to create a positive learning experience for children, parents and teachers, one that fosters the belief that meaningful learning happens everywhere. Homework, when assigned, is intended to support that experience. Homework is purposefully designed to help our students establish effective habits; reinforce skills; and become motivated, self-directed learners, able to leverage all the tools available to them as they build the knowledge, skills and mindsets for success in the 21st century. Because we understand that children do not always learn in the same ways or at the same pace, our homework policy is flexible enough to respond to both individual and collective needs. We appreciate that our students learn from and value a wide range of self-selected extracurricular activities, and strongly believe that unstructured/family time is crucial to their growth and development. Please refer to the CIS homework policy using the Elementary School Homework Policy for additional information.

Elementary School Homework Policy

Suggested Daily Reading Guidelines in Elementary:

Did you know? A student who reads independently for 20 minutes a day reads almost two million words a year more than those who do not. Want to be a better reader? Simply read. Exposure to reading and time spent reading are fundamental keys to student success.

- Grade K- 2: From 20 minutes daily
- Grades 3-5: From 30 minutes daily



Information Technology

CIS has a commitment to integrating technology throughout the curriculum. In the elementary school, students have 1-to-1 access to technology devices in their classrooms. Classroom teachers and technology integration specialists collaboratively plan lessons that help students use technology for learning. Students must sign a [Technology/Internet Acceptable Use Policy](#) to reinforce responsible use of electronic resources. Please refer to the Technology/Internet Acceptable Use Policy in the [Appendix](#).

Using the school's network, students may access information and communicate with others. With this educational opportunity comes responsibility. The network is provided for students to enable them to conduct research and to enlarge the number of educational resources available to them. Access to technology and network services is provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Every user of the system must sign and abide by the provisions of the school's Technology and Internet Use Agreement, which includes a code of conduct. With the use of the network and the Internet comes the need for responsible, ethical, and lawful behavior on the part of the users. Network/school administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and to insure that users are using the system responsibly. The use of technology and the Internet is a privilege and not a right.

The consequences for failure to adhere to the technology code of conduct may result in restriction or complete loss of access to any and all forms of technology or other disciplinary measures deemed appropriate by the school administration.

Insurance

The school carries a basic legal liability policy. Students are not covered for personal accidents. The school cannot accept liability for students on or off the school premises. Parents must take out their own insurance policies. If students are traveling on an extended field trip, parents are expected to make insurance provisions for personal insurance.

Labeling of Clothing and Personal Items

It is good practice to label all items that one wears and brings to school. It is much easier to identify the owner of a lost item when a name is written on the article.

Library

The CIS Library is open during school days from 7:45am to 4:00pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and from 7:45am to 3:15pm on Tuesdays. The library is a designated information center designed for academic research of printed material, video, and online databases. Elementary students visit the library with their classes to develop library and research skills as well as for literature enrichment. They may also visit the library on their own with teacher permission. The number of materials that may be borrowed varies according to the grade level of the student. If any materials are overdue, the student will not be allowed to check out other materials until the overdue materials are returned. The return of materials on time and in good condition is the responsibility of the student. Students will be required to pay for lost or damaged materials. Parents of elementary students are welcome to check out books before 8:00 am and after 3:15 pm. Elementary students are required to be under the supervision of a parent/guardian when visiting the library outside of their regular instructional day.

Lost And Found

Items found on the school campus will be placed in a Lost and Found Box, which is located inside the front door of the ARC. Smaller items, such as jewelry and glasses, may be kept at the Reception Desk in the Main Administration Building.

Parents and students are encouraged to check the Lost and Found Box periodically for missing items. After a period of time, appropriate items remaining in Lost and Found will be given to a local charity or resold at the school's Uniform Swap. Students are asked to label all of their possessions with their names. Great care should be taken with possessions and respect shown to items belonging to others.

Lost or Damaged Learning Materials

Textbooks, student workbooks and most instructional materials are provided by the school. Students are responsible for the correct use and care of these books and materials, as well as library materials, assigned technology equipment and all school facilities. Students are reminded to place books, lunch boxes, and other items in their classroom cubbies during the day. A replacement cost for lost and/or damaged books, equipment, and facilities will be collected. No report cards or transcripts will be provided until all financial obligations have been met.

Lunch

Lunch is from 11:05 - 11:25 or 11:25 - 11:55 depending on the grade level schedule, and is preceded or followed by a 20 minute recess. When eating, students are expected to:

- Stay seated in the meal area and visit quietly.
- Use respectful language and manners at all times.
- Clean up the meal area after eating, putting all trash in available containers.
- Cooperate with instructions from teachers and other appointed care providers.
- Wait quietly until it is time to be dismissed.
- Students should bring their own refillable water bottles daily. Drinking fountains are also available around school.
- Microwaves are available for Kindergarten to Grade 5 students to use independently.

Please try to minimize the number of single-use plastics and other packaging sent to school in snacks and lunches.

There is a catered lunch program contracted by the school. Students may also bring lunch from home. All students eat in the designated lunch and snack areas. Students are expected to be respectful of those areas and to keep them free from litter. CIS Lunch Vendor Sign Up: Please sign up with the lunch provider for Cayman International School using this link: <https://thelunchboxcayman.com>

Medical/Health Concerns

The school considers the health and safety of its students to be of prime importance. Accordingly, the school maintains a first-aid station in the main office to assist students who become ill during the day. In addition, CIS currently employs a health specialist. Should a student need to be sent home or require further medical treatment, parents will be notified. It is important for parents to keep phone contacts current and to provide the school with an emergency contact. In the event that a student needs urgent medical attention and the school is unable to contact the parents/guardians immediately, an administrator will arrange for the student to be taken to a doctor or hospital.

The office must be informed if a child is on medication or has any special health problems that require regular attention. If a parent requires that a student be given medication during the school day, then written permission must be given to the school office and all medication must be kept in the office. The parent should pick up the medicine at the end of the school day. Students are not allowed to administer medication on campus. A student **should not be sent to school** if he/she has:

- An earache or severe headache
- Fever
- An acute cold
- Communicable disease
- Drainage or inflammation of an eye
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Untreated head lice

The parent of a student with a communicable disease must notify the school office.

Nutrition Breaks and Snacks

Students have two nutrition breaks per day. Students bring snacks from home and eat outside before morning playtime. Students are encouraged to bring a nutritious snack from home for their mid-morning break. Students are discouraged from sharing snacks to respect dietary restrictions and allergies other students may have. Students should bring their own refillable water bottles daily. Drinking fountains are also available around school. Please try to minimize the number of single-use plastics and other packaging sent to school in snacks and lunches.

Parent-Teacher & Student-led Conferences

Parent-Teacher and Student-Led conferences are used to inform and provide parents with details of their child's progress and potential learning goals. Parents will have the opportunity to see samples of their child's work and engage in rich conversations with teachers.

- *Parent-Teacher Conferences (PTCs)* take place at the beginning of November. Additional conferences with teachers, counselors or administrators may be scheduled by parents at any time. Conferences should always be conducted first with the teacher before requesting a meeting with the counselor or administrator. Teachers may also schedule additional conferences with parents.
- *Student-Led Conferences (SLCs)* take place during the April conference session. Students will continue to assume responsibility for their growth as learners with student-led conferences held in the spring of each year. There will always be an option for additional parent conferences if needed.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Acts of academic dishonesty may include plagiarism, cheating, stealing, and lying. These are considered serious offenses. Consequences for such behaviors follow the [Elementary School Behavior Policy](#).

Recess/Lunch Rules


- Use kind, gentle hands—no pushing, hitting, etc.

- All students must wear a hat and appropriate footwear.
- Use respectful language and manners at all times (no name-calling, teasing, bullying, or inappropriate language).
- Play in designated areas only.
- Respect property—do not kick balls against any wall surfaces or stairs.
- Leave toys at home.
- Follow the rules of the game and/or use equipment properly.
- Return equipment to the proper place after use.
- Listen to the teacher or adult supervisor.
- Line up as soon as the bell rings or the signal is given by the teacher.

Reporting and Assessment





The fundamental purpose of assessment is to collect and analyze data concerning student performance in order to make informed decisions about future learning experiences. Evidence of student learning is shared with parents throughout the year in Seesaw posts and messages, student portfolios, during learning celebrations and other events. At the midway point of semester one and two, parents will be invited to participate in Parent Conferences (Semester 1) or Student-Led Conferences (Semester 2) to receive information and updates about their child's learning and an overall snapshot of their child's preliminary levels of attainment. These conferences are also used to set new learning goals.

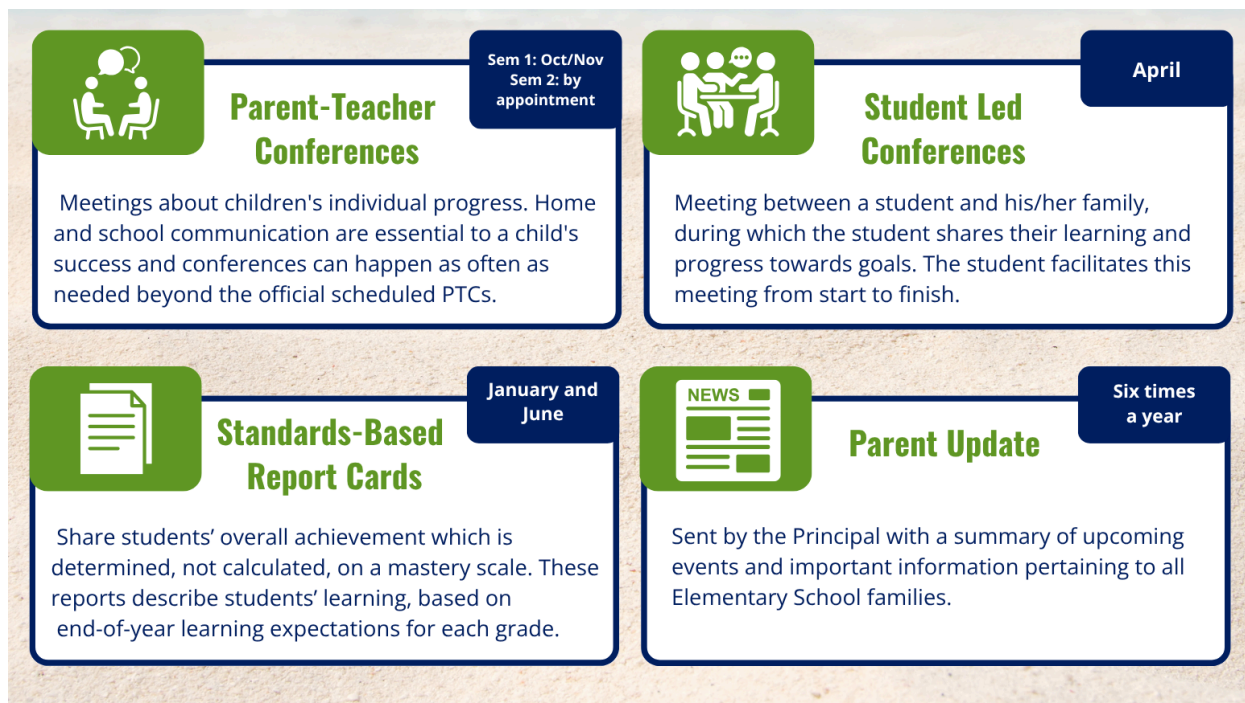
At the end of Semesters One and Two, Standards-Based Mastery Reports with teacher narratives are issued to provide detailed information about students' mastery of grade-level learning goals. For each subject, children receive several different scores to communicate attainment in key learning areas.



COMMUNICATING LEARNING - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cayman International School

 <h2>Seesaw Journal</h2> <p>Varies based on grade</p> <p>Documents the learning journey as a portfolio throughout the year. Students and teachers add to it to show learning is a process of growing, deepening, and sharing conceptual understandings, competencies, and character in meaningful ways.</p>	 <h2>Newsletters</h2> <p>Weekly</p> <p>Sent by homeroom teachers. Provide parents with information about the class and the learning journey. News about events, topics covered in class and ways to support student learning appear here.</p>
 <h2>Messages and Announcements</h2> <p>Ongoing and as needed</p> <p>Sent by teachers via email or Seesaw to inform parents about the the progress of the class or individual students. This is a opportunity for parents to respond to the teacher with questions, comments or concerns.</p>	 <h2>Celebrations of Learning</h2> <p>4 to 6 times a year</p> <p>Specific to a class or a grade level. Usually happen towards the end of a PBL or unit. Students share their learning with students, parents, staff, and the wider community. Celebrations of Learning include music informances, writing celebrations, swim gala, and PBL showcases, among other.</p>



Safety And Security Procedures

Entering/Exiting Campus - Safety is a primary focus throughout the school. With the exception of arrival and dismissal times all Elementary parents and visitors must report to the Main Administration Building to obtain a visitors pass, which must be worn while on campus. For safety reasons parents or visitors may not go directly to a classroom.

When parents need to take a child from school during school hours, they are asked to confirm arrangements ahead of time with the classroom teacher and to sign out at the Main Administration Building. If signing out siblings from different divisions please inform the receptionist who will share this information with the other division.

Emergency Preparedness - The school has appropriate emergency procedures in place in order to ensure speedy evacuation of the premises in the event of fire, earthquake/tsunami, or lockdown. Regular practice drills are held at intervals during the school year to ensure all students are familiar with the procedures. Should an island emergency occur (e.g., an approaching storm), please check the school website and local radio/television for information regarding school closings. When necessary, the school phone tree may be utilized to contact parents. Should an emergency occur during school hours, students will be kept on campus until parents can collect them.

Standardized Testing

CIS provides for globally-recognized standardized testing to be administered to elementary students. The NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) is currently taken by students in Grades 2-10 in the Fall and Spring for Reading and Math. The NWEA MAP is taken by students in Grades 3-10 in the Winter for Science. These tests provide information about student attainment and progress in relation to U.S. and international norms at key points in the academic year. Results of the test are shared with parents along with information about how to read and interpret scores. Test results should be viewed within the context of other feedback such as school-based assessments and report cards. Parents and students will be informed of the testing dates ahead of time, but no advance study or preparation is required.

Student Service Learning

Service learning is a teaching and learning approach in which students learn educational standards through tackling real-life problems in their community. These projects leverage students' motivation to do good in the world as a means to grow their conceptual understanding, competencies and character. Past projects have included advocating and acting for shark conservation, distributing healthy foods to needy families, and building a temporary public museum exhibit to honor local veterans of war. Other examples will grow from students' collective desires to effect change related to a disciplinary or interdisciplinary inquiry.

Supplies and Books

All textbooks and school supplies are provided by CIS.

Suspension/Exclusion

In accordance with our statement of eligibility the administration reserves the right to suspend or exclude a student. Normally, this would be in a situation where, following counseling and conferences with the student and parents, the student: continues to behave in a manner that is detrimental to the school; or, is unable to profit from the academic program; or, either interrupts the learning of others or endangers their safety. However, in severe cases, exclusion may be recommended without benefit of prior counseling or conferences. In the event of expulsion, there will be no reimbursement of tuition fees.

For more information refer to the [ES Behavior Procedures](#).

Transportation

The school does not operate a school bus service. Parents are responsible for their child's transportation to and from school.

Tutoring

In some situations, a student may benefit from private tutoring outside of the school day to assist with his/her learning needs. The school may be able to assist in locating a tutor, with tutoring expenses paid by the parents.

The following document outlines the [CIS Tutoring Policy & Procedures](#). The parents should communicate with the tutoring coordinator via email: tutoring@cis.ky

Uniforms

All students from Pre-K 3 through Grade 12 are required to follow our uniform policy. Exceptions to the school uniform policy must have the approval of the administration. Please note the following specific information about uniforms can be found here [CIS Uniform Policy and Information](#).

Withdrawal

If your child will be withdrawing from school, please inform the admissions office in writing as soon as possible, admissions@cis.ky. Advance notice is needed in order to prepare school records.

Appendix

Honor Code

CIS desires to instill in its students and faculty the highest sense of honor. Persons of honor embrace the following values:

Personal integrity and respect for themselves, the school and the community.

- Responsible citizenship, pride in their school, helpfulness, appreciation of others and respect for our environment.
- As we work together as students, parents, faculty and staff we stand on a foundation of integrity, honesty and responsible citizenship.

All students and parents will be asked to acknowledge that they have read the CIS Honor Code of Cayman International School in the back-to-school contracts packet.

Student Code of Conduct

Parents are asked to read and discuss the Student Code of Conduct and the information in the Elementary Student/Parent Handbook with their child. The following statements form the Student Code of Conduct:

As a student of Cayman International School:

- I will arrive on time and be prepared for class.
- I will complete all homework to the best of my ability and hand it in on time.
- I will wear my school uniform as intended.
- I will treat my teachers and classmates with respect at all times.
- I will refrain from using inappropriate language.
- I will follow snack, lunch, and playtime rules.
- I will respect the property of others at all times.
- I will refrain from chewing gum at school or on school-sponsored trips and will not bring gum to school or on trips.
- I will not use or have a cell phone, smartwatch, or any unapproved electronic device during the school day.
- I will discuss the food allergy policy with my parents and be aware of my responsibility.
- I understand and will follow the guidelines, policies, and procedures in the Elementary School Student/Parent Handbook.

Illegal Behavior Policy

The use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs on campus or at school-sponsored student events, is absolutely prohibited. Cayman International School will not tolerate the use of illicit drugs, tobacco or alcohol. No student shall possess, use, attempt to use, supply, transmit or be under the influence of illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco in school, on campus or during school sponsored activities on or off campus. CIS is a smoke free campus.

Use or possession of tobacco

- On the first offense, a student's parent/guardian will be notified and a letter of warning of suspension will be placed in the student's file.
- On a second or subsequent offense a student's parent/guardian will be notified and the student will be suspended for a period of up to three days (as determined by the Director) from school. There will be no opportunity to make up for missed work.
- Repeated offenses will be dealt with in accordance with the Director.

Use or possession of drugs or alcohol

- Where a suspicion exists that a student may be in possession of, use or supply other students with illegal drugs or alcohol, or may be "under the influence" of one or more of these substances, the student's parent/guardian will be notified and a parent/school conference will be held immediately. It will be the responsibility of the student and his/her parents to allay the suspicion and to confirm with the school accordingly. The school will require the submission of a medical report by a doctor determined by the school.
- On the first offense, a student's parent/guardian will be notified and the student will be suspended from school until a date determined by the Director (with professional assistance required of the student and parents before returning to school). Possession, use and/or supply of illegal drugs or

any of the below-mentioned prohibited items will result in a mandatory long suspension. There will be no chance to make up the work. The decision of the Director in this matter will be final.

- Repeated offenses and/or positive results may result in immediate suspension with a recommendation for expulsion to ISS. No credit will be earned for any part of the semester in case of expulsion.

Prohibitions

- Any controlled substance or dangerous drug as defined by either US or Cayman law, including but not limited to marijuana, hashish, any narcotic drug, hallucinogen, stimulant, depressant, amphetamine or barbiturate.
- Any locally available pharmaceutical without the knowledge and permission of parents.
- Any abusable glue, aerosol paint, or any other volatile chemical substance for the purpose of inhalation
- Any other intoxicant, or mood-changing, mind-altering, or behavior-altering drugs, unless prescribed specifically to the user. by a qualified medical physician.

Weapons

No real or play weapons, including pocket knives, of any kind should ever be brought on campus or to a school event off campus. Consequences may include suspension or expulsion.

Searches

A search of student property may be made at the discretion of the administrators if a reasonable suspicion arises that items considered illegal, dangerous, disruptive, or a general nuisance to the educational process are being kept on the school campus. This may include circumstances in which violations of the prohibitions defined in this policy are suspected. Personal searches of students may be made only in the presence of two adults of the same sex as the person being searched, and a written report will be made to the parent and to the Director.

Technology / Internet Acceptable Use Policy

Using the school's network, students may access information and communicate with others. With this educational opportunity comes responsibility. The network is provided for students to enable them to conduct research and to enlarge the number of educational resources available to them. Access to technology and network services is provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Every user of the system must sign and abide by the provisions of the school's Technology and Internet Use Agreement, which includes a code of conduct. With the use of the network and the Internet comes the need for responsible, ethical, and lawful behavior on the part of the users. Network/school administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and to insure that users are using the system responsibly. The use of technology and the Internet is a privilege and not a right. The consequences for failure to adhere to the technology code of conduct may result in restriction or complete loss of access to any and all forms of technology or other disciplinary measures deemed appropriate by the school administration.

Technology Code Of Conduct (Access And Use) Grades 2-5

The Cayman International School actively promotes the appropriate use of technology in education. To ensure that students, staff, parents and other community members can take full advantage of the technologies available, all use of technology must have proper authorization and adhere to the school's code of conduct. To access and use technology at CIS, this statement must be signed by each student and his/her parents and be kept on file at the school.

As a student at Cayman International School, I will do the following:

- I understand that the use of technology is for school purposes only.
- As a responsible user, I will not access inappropriate materials.
- As a responsible user, will adhere to the laws for copyrighted materials under international guidelines.
- I will respect others' individual work, files, passwords and programs.
- I will not disrupt or distract others while using devices, nor will I touch others' devices.
- I have responsibility for my account; I will not share my password.
- It is my responsibility to make wise choices to ensure no equipment is damaged.
- I will not bring food or drink near technology equipment.
- I will only use the Internet for educational, assignment specific use. This use will be monitored and/or restricted.
- I will be a positive ambassador for CIS and will not use any aspect of the Internet for content that would be inappropriate, offensive, threatening, dishonest or constitute harassment to any member of the CIS community or to Cayman International School.

The consequences for failure to adhere to the technology code of conduct may result in restriction or complete loss of access to any and all forms of technology or other disciplinary measures deemed appropriate by the school administration.

All students and parents will be asked to acknowledge that they have read the Technology Code of Conduct of Cayman International School in the back-to-school contracts packet.

Technology Code Of Conduct (Access And Use) Kindergarten And Grade 1

The Cayman International School actively promotes the appropriate use of technology in education. To ensure that students, staff, parents and other community members can take full advantage of the technologies available, all use of technology must have proper authorization and adhere to the school's code of conduct. To access and use technology at CIS, this statement must be discussed by each student and his/her parents, signed and kept on file at the school.

Internet access is an important privilege to aid in the educational process and to help prepare our students for their roles in the 21st century. It is the intent of CIS to provide access for all our students who are respectful users of technology. Failing to adhere to these rules may result in a student's privilege of accessing technology at school to be revoked.

As a student at Cayman International School, I will do the following:

- I will only use technology as instructed by my teacher.
- I will not eat food or have drinks when using technology. .
- I will be respectful to others using technology.
- I will be a respectful user of technology.

I agree to accept the values and abide by the above code.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All students and parents will be asked to acknowledge that they have read the CIS Honor Code of Conduct of Cayman International School in the back-to-school contracts packet.

National Anthems

BELOVED ISLE CAYMAN NATIONAL SONG

O, land of soft fresh breezes,
Of verdant trees so fair,
With thy Creator's glory
Reflected everywhere.
O sea of palest em'rald,
Merging to darkest blue,
When'ere my thoughts fly Godward,
I always think of you.

Chorus: Dear verdant island, set
In blue Caribbean Sea,
I'm coming, coming very soon,
O beauteous isle, to thee.
Although I've wandered far,
My heart enshrines thee yet.
Homeland, fair Cayman Isle,
I cannot thee forget.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!

CIS School Song

by Angela Morone

We stand together, blends of new and old, challenged in our school we grow.
We stand for character, knowledge and service.
Blessed with talent, strength and pride,
We move together, we soar to fly.

Refrain: CIS please dare us to find a driven spirit with honor by our side.

As the colors of the Cayman parrot spread wide,
We take pride in our countries far and wide.
CIS please dare us to find the same bright spirit in these friendships that bind.

Refrain: CIS please dare us to find a driven spirit with honor by our side.

Turtles of green, iguanas of blue, our time together always hold true.
Turtles of green, iguanas of blue, our time together always hold true.

Refrain: CIS please dare us to find a driven spirit with honor by our side.